

E-News Update



STATE OF WASHINGTON

MENTAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION GRANT PROJECT

PO Box 45321 Olympia, Washington 98504-5321

The staff and members of the Mental Health Transformation Work Group of the Governor's Mental Health Transformation initiative *Partnerships for Recovery: Transforming the Mental Health System in Washington State* would like to update you on the most recent transformation activities and wish you warm Season's Greetings!

This is an informal update for all of you who've contacted us with your interest in the implementation of this grant.

After the Holidays, we will send regular emails will and craft more formal electronic and paper newsletters. In the meantime, if you know others who would like to be on our distribution list, please forward this email and have them reply to Erin Peterschick, Project Coordinator, at petere@dshs.wa.gov.

Recent Happenings

Transformation Work Group meets for the first time December 9, 2005

The 32 members of the Transformation Work Group, who were appointed last spring by Governor Gregoire, met for the first time in Olympia on Friday December 9, 2005. The members of this governing body include Tribal delegates, youth, adult, and parent consumer representatives, a representative of the Governor, and the heads of multiple statewide agencies and divisions.

Minutes from the December 9th meeting of the Transformation Workgroup are posted on the Transformation Grant webpage: <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/Mentalhealth/mhtsig.shtml>

Documents handed out at the December TWG meeting can also be found on the webpage. Please review these materials and if you are interested in being considered for the subcommittees, task groups, focus groups, peer-to-peer interviewers, or would otherwise like to participate in the grant activities as they unfold, please contact the Project Coordinator.

Agency co-chairs for the Sub-Committees are being identified and will be announced shortly. We are currently recruiting for consumer and tribal representatives to sit on the subcommittees and task groups. We ask that you please share the recruitment needs with your constituencies and for your help in disseminating T-grant news in your own agencies and organizations. Feel free to contact the Project Coordinator if you need more information for your own newsletters and communications.

Consumer co-chairs and members will be determined with the assistance of the Mental Health Planning and Advisory Committee (MHPAC). MHPAC has also agreed to play a key role in organizing and advancing the Sub-Committee structure.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

We continue to ask any and all of our partners to please help us in identifying meeting spaces around the state for hosting the full Transformation Work Group. If you are interested in hosting this 40+ member group, please contact the project coordinator with a location and contact person who can assist in coordinating the details. Thank you in advance for helping us with this critical part of the implementation.

We would also like to identify meeting spaces for the subcommittees to conduct their work, including 'town hall' style meetings. Any information for either kind of space is greatly appreciated.

Partnerships for Recovery Hiring Additional Staff Soon

Position descriptions and recruitment announcements for staff to the project continue to wind their way through the human resources process. We will hire several staff including consumer positions and hope that the announcements will be out the first week of January. Position recruitments will be posted on the state Department of Personnel website: <http://www.dop.wa.gov/> and advertised on the Transformation webpage.

Project staff are keeping a list of people who have expressed interest in finding out when these positions will be announced. To add your name to the list, please e-mail the Project Coordinator. We anticipate recruitment and hiring to occur during January.

Former Family Policy Council Director and Children's Administration Program Manager David Brenna has joined the staff of the transformation grant. David brings years of experience with initiatives and start-ups in state government. More soon on his contact information and responsibilities on the project. David joins recently appointed Director Ken Stark, Deputy Director Ron Jemelka, and Project Coordinator Erin Peterschick.

Community Transformation Partnership: A Mental Health Stakeholder Collaborative

A group of adult, youth, and parent consumers and advocates recently began meeting to support the transformation effort. Director Stark has asked this "group of groups" and their leaders to aid him in

many aspects of grant implementation, from recruiting broad consumer involvement for the subcommittees, task groups, focus groups, and peer-to-peer interviews, to subcontract review and planning the conference budgeted into year one of the grant.

Members of the group include leadership from NAMI, the Clubhouse Coalition, Consumer Liaisons and Patient Advocates from the Mental Health Division and state hospitals, family advocates from MHD and Child Study and Treatment Center, parent/family organizations Washington PAVE and SAFE Washington, and the Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council. The group has met 3 times and is in the process of crafting a charter and strategies for how their efforts can further the development of a statewide adult consumer network and enhance the parent and family statewide network.

They are also looking to broaden their membership to best reflect the needs and diversity of the state. If you would like to participate on this group of consumer and advocate leadership, please contact Project Staff and we will share your interest with the partnership group.

New Contact Information for the Partnerships for Recovery Offices

The Mental Health Transformation Project has secured office space that is currently being re-configured to maximize the space and reduce costs. We are located in the Southeast wing of the 4th Floor of Office Building 2 in Olympia. The mailing address for the office is:

Happy Holidays! Additional updates to come soon...



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E-Update, please contact:

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